

LCMGA Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM, March 4, 2026

Lee County Extension Office,

600 South 7th St Opelika, AL 36801

- Welcome—Doug Deason, President, called the meeting to order at 10:03AM. He announced that the agenda will be the same for every meeting going forward. He was asked to send a copy to members before the meetings.
- Approval of Minutes—The minutes of the February and March meetings will be approved at the April meeting. Secretary Marcia Boosinger will send them directly to members before each meeting.
- Treasurer's Report—Debbie Murphy, Treasurer, reported that there was not much budget activity in the previous month. The PNC checking account balance is just under \$30,000, income to date is -\$7481 and expenses for the month were \$93 with income of \$18. These are the account balances:

PNC Operating account balance: \$29,908.75

PNC Reserve account balance: \$21,549.29

Total: \$51,458.04

Doug announced that the Executive Board voted by email to fund printing expenses for up to \$2000 to provide materials to distribute at outreach events. The Board also approved a donation of \$100 to the silent auction at the Alabama State Master Gardener Conference.

- Regional Extension Agent report—Regional Extension Agent Dani Carroll announced there are nine interns currently, six from Lee County and three from other counties. They are volunteering at different places for extension including 4-H as well as with Forestry and Wildlife. Her budget has \$5800 left until the end of September which will go for mostly travel. Mary Anne Hokanson asked if there were any activities that the master gardeners could help sponsor, and Dani stated she would provide a list. She announced extension district workshops on pollinators with the one in East Alabama at the end of July, 2 to 3 weeks before the pollinator census.
- Communications—Shelley Aistrup, Communications Director, announced a New Weeds will be posted on Monday.
- Membership—Annie Hinson, Membership Director, volunteered to research the acquisition of a lavalier microphone for meetings, especially those held at the extension office.
- Educational Outreach—Joan Jacobs, Education Outreach Chair, announced there might be a plant rescue event at the Opelika Public Library March 7 if it makes. March 21 will be a seed starting workshop from 10:00AM to 12:00PM at O Grows which Doug will lead. April 27 is CityFest at Keisel Park in Auburn. The Kiwanis plant sale was very busy, and many seeds were handed out.

- Volunteer and CEU Opportunities—

Lynne Peer asked for volunteers for the senior gardening project March 24 at Azalea Place where participants will be working on flower arrangements and will be provided with a virtual tour of a pop-up garden. She also asked that people consider volunteering to replace her as the leader of the group. The senior gardening project needs volunteers once a quarter and members can sign up on SignUpGenius.

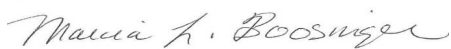
Mike Akins announced a streamside planting workshop on March 28 from 9 to 1030 at the Lake Wilmore Recreation Center.

Fred Schlich mentioned that he had been given many 2025 seeds and they were available to take to any event for the public with a request to him. Using these will help fulfill the master gardener mission, and the concise information on the back of packages can be used to provide education on how to plant the seeds. He also gives seeds to the Seed Library at the Auburn Public Library, which is a joint effort of the library and the FFA. Seeds also go to the Phenix City Public Library.

A student at Auburn in bioengineering wants to start a picking garden and will be meeting with Doug and Projects Team member Teresa Logiotatos next week and anyone who is interested can attend.

- Field Trips—Carole Borowski announced an April 22 guided tour of the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at 9:45AM which will then progress to Lilly's Garden at the Forest Avenue School and she will be coordinating lunch at a local restaurant. She will be providing learning objectives and members will use SignUpGenius to commit. There is no cost, but the organizations take donations. On June 2 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM there will be a tour of the Kreher Preserve. Cyndi Czerkowski will do refreshments with herbs and there will be a two-hour hike with lunch at Amsterdam afterwards. Carole will be providing two other field trip opportunities in the fall.
- Demonstration Gardens—Betsy Akins described the first workday for the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail as a success. Jan Holt announced two workdays at Keisel Park March 10 and 24th from 9:00AM to 11:00AM and she still needs help with muscadine pruning. Beth Dorman told the group that the next workday at Grandma's Garden will be March 12.
- Programs— Becky Large, Programs Committee Chair, reminded members that the program on April 1 at the Harris Center will be by Claire Goldman of R&R Landscaping on shade gardening and landscape design. Carol Clemmons has scheduled several pop-ups with learning objectives. They will include one in April at the Arboretum, one in May at Sherry and Jesse Chappell's garden and one either in May or June on hydrangeas with Dale Peterson.
- Other information to share or matters to discuss—Kat Anderson reminded people to bring books to swap and stated that some were available at this meeting. Lynne Peer asked about the plantings in the boxes in front of extension with a look to improving those perhaps using rocks or shells. Will Shinn announced that Victory Designs will close its online Master Gardener shop on Friday and reopen it later. To get to the shop go to the Victory Designs website and search EMG. Arboretum tours are every Tuesday and open to all comers. Doug mentioned that the state conference is taking registrations to be put on a waitlist. Mary Anne Hokanson mentioned empty pots for the taking at the back door of extension and Dianne Weeks told member that she had free plants to any takers there as well. Door prizes went to Dennis Pinkard, Mike Akins and Donna Sollie.
- Adjournment— Doug adjourned the meeting at 10:39 AM. The monthly program on "Gardening Apps" presented by Master Gardener Shelley Aistrup and Honorary Master Gardener Mike Akins followed.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia L. Boosinger
Secretary